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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT

Solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 19 January 1994 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce

The President of the General Assembly has the honour to make the following solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce:

"On 25 October 1993, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/10, by which it proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, and resolution 48/11, in which it urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce.

The Olympic Truce for the upcoming Olympic Games to be held at Lillehammer, Norway, from 12 to 27 February 1994, will last from 5 February to 6 March 1994. The Olympic Truce, or ekecheria, is based on an ancient Greek tradition, dating back to the ninth century B.C. All conflicts ceased during the period of the Truce, which began seven days prior to the opening of the Olympic Games and ended on the seventh day following the closing of the Games, so that athletes, artists, their relatives and pilgrims could travel safely to the Olympic Games and afterwards return to their countries.

Valiant attempts have consistently been made by the United Nations in an effort to bring peace and stability to the troubled regions of the world. Still new concepts are needed for dealing with strife.

I solemnly appeal to all States to observe the Olympic Truce and to strive towards building lasting peace, whether or not they are now parties to a confrontation. I urge us all to place at the forefront of our

thoughts and actions the principles and ideals which the ekecheria and the Olympic Movement seek to propagate. By applying the principle of the ekecheria, the world can at least hope for some respite, however temporary, from the killing and destruction which accompany conflict. I therefore appeal to those now engaged in armed struggles to uphold this principle and suspend hostilities in keeping with its observance."

In order for the General Assembly to take note of the solemn appeal, it will be necessary to reopen agenda item 167.